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## Development builds on history -- and the ooze of 1871 landfill

November 24, 2007

The dirt beneath downtown's Lakeshore East development is part of Chicago's heritage and lore.

Before the condos took over, it was a par-3, nine-hole golf course. Duffers took a break from downtown cubicles to battle the lake breezes.

Before that, the Illinois Central Railroad used it to store railcars. The dreaded Lake Shore Drive S-curve, a fender-bending hazard for generations, skirted the property before meeting its end in 1987.

Before that, and this goes back to the 19th century, the railroad used it directly for shipping at what was a thriving port in its day.

And before that, the property was lake bottom. Along with what's now Grant Park, it became landfill with rubble from the 1871 Chicago fire.

Today, Lakeshore East is thought to be the largest downtown development site of any U.S. city.

It could take another 10 years to finish, more if the economy doesn't cooperate. At full build-out, it would contain: 4,950 homes; a 6-acre park; 1,500 hotel rooms; 770,000 square feet of retail, and a 400-student public school.

Main buildings finished so far:

- • The Lancaster, 29 stories with 209 condos, finished in 2005.
- • The Shoreham, 46 stories with 548 apartments, finished in 2005.
- • The Regatta, 44 stories with 325 condos, finished in 2006.
- • 340 on the Park, 62 stories with 340 condos, finished in 2007.
- • The Chandler, 35 stories with 304 condos, finished in 2007.
- • The Tides, 51 stories with 607 apartments, due to be finished soon.

*David Roeder*